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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method for improving speech recognition performance, the method comprising:

   a) determining initial context information associated with an input speech stream;

   b) mapping the initial context information to at least one default speech model;

   c) dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the initial context information; and

   d) if so, associating the new speech model with the input speech stream as a new default model.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the initial context information comprises at least one of a user, personal characteristics of the user and a communication channel characteristics.

3. (Previously canceled)

4. (Previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the personal characteristics include at least one from the group comprised of: gender, native language, age, ethnicity, and home region.

5. (Previously canceled)

6. (Previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the communication channel characteristics include at least one from the group comprised of: type of connection, model of phone, network identifiers, network characteristics and background noise level.

7. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises associating at least one alternative model with the input speech stream.

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8. (Previously amended) A method for dynamically selecting a speech model, the method comprising:

    a) receiving a call from a user;

    b) determining characteristics of a communications channel through which the call is received;

    c) selecting a default speech model based upon the characteristics of the channel;

    d) configuring a speech recognizer to use the selected default speech model;

    e) dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the communications channel; and

    f) if so, associating the new speech model with the call as a new default speech model and configuring the speech recognizer to use the new default speech model.

9. (Previously deleted)

10. (Previously amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises overriding the selected default speech model by dynamically identifying whether the new default speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the communications channel based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristics.

11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 8, wherein receiving a call from a user further comprises determining information identifying the user.

12. (Previously amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises overriding the selected default speech model by dynamically identifying whether a new default speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristic.

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13. (Previously canceled)

14. (Previously canceled)

15. (Previously amended) An article including instructions that, when executed, result in:
    a) reception of a call from a user;
    b) determination of characteristics of a communications channel through which the call is received;
    c) selection of a default speech model based upon the communication channel characteristics;
    d) configuring a speech recognizer to use the selected default speech model;
    e) dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the channel; and
    f) if so, associating the new speech model with the call as a new default speech model and configuring the speech recognizer to use the new default speech model.

16. (Previously amended) The article of claim 15, wherein the article includes further instructions that, when executed, result in determination of information identifying the user.

17. (Previously canceled)

18. (Previously amended) The article of claim 16, wherein the article includes further instructions that, when executed, overrides the selected default speech model by dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user and the communications channel based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristics.

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19. (Currently amended) A method for dynamically selecting a speech model, the
    method comprising:
    a) receiving a call from a user;
    b) identifying the user;
    c) accessing user information;
    d) selecting a default speech model based upon characteristics of the user <u>determined</u>
       <u>from the user information</u>;
    e) configuring a speech recognizer to use the selected default speech model;
    f) dynamically identifying whether a new specch model has a better fit to the
       characteristics of the user; and
    g) if so, associating the new speech model with the call as a new default model and
       configuring the a speech recognizer to use the new default model.

20. (Previously amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the method further
    comprises determining characteristics of a communications channel through which
    the call is received.

21. (Previously canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises
    overriding the selected default speech model based upon by dynamically identifying
    whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user and the
    communications channel <u>based upon at least one of the group comprised of</u>:
    communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a
    combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristics.

23. (Previously canceled)

24. (Previously canceled)

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25. (Currently amended) An article including instructions that, when executed, result in:

    a) reception of a call from a user;

    b) identification of the user;

    c) access of user information;

    d) selection of a default speech model based upon characteristics of the user determined from the user information;

    e) configuration of a speech recognizer to use the selected default speech model;

    f) dynamic identification of whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user, and if so, association of the new speech model with the call as a new default model; and

    g) a speech recognizer to use the selected default model.

26. (Previously amended) The article of claim 25 wherein the article further includes instructions that, when executed, result in determination of characteristics of a communications channel through which the call is received.

27. (Previously canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the article further includes instructions that, when executed, result in overriding the selected default speech model based upon by dynamically identifying whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the user and the communications channel based upon at least one of the group comprised of: communication channel characteristics, personal characteristics of the user, and a combination of communication channel characteristics and personal characteristics.

29. (Previously amended) A speech recognition system, comprising:

    a) at least two speech models;

    b) a control module operable to:

        i)   determine context information about a call;

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      ii)   select one of the at least two speech models as a selected default speech model based on the context information; and

      iii)   configure a speech recognizer to use the selected default speech model;

      iv)   dynamically identify whether a new speech model has a better fit to the characteristics of the context information; and

      v)   if so, associating the new speech model with the call as a new default speech model; and

  c) a recognition engine operable to:

      i)   receive an input speech stream;

      ii)   receive information from the control module about an appropriate speech model to use;

      iii)   convert an input speech stream to an output text stream using the appropriate speech model.

30. (Previously amended) The system of claim 29, wherein the context information about the call includes at least one piece of information from the group comprised of: personal characteristics, communication channel characteristics, and a combination of personal and communication channel characteristics.

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